ECO-FEMINISM IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF ANITA NAIR, KAMALA MARKANDAYA AND MANJU KAPUR

A BRIEF SYNOPSIS FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGLISH
(FACULTY OF ARTS)

TO
SWAMI RAMANAND TIRTH MARATHAWADA
UNIVERSITY NANDED (MS)

RESEARCHER
SATYANAND KADU NAKHOD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENGLISH
RAJARSHI SHAHU POLYTECHNIC BULDHANA

SUPERVISOR
DR. MAHENDRA S SHINDE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NUTAN COLLEGE SELU

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INTRODUCTION

Eco-Feminism depicts movement and philosophies that link feminism with ecology. It is believed that the term was coind by the French writer Francoise d Eallbonne in her book, **Le Feminisme ou la mort** (1974). Eco-feminism connects the exploitation and domination of women to the environment, and argues that there is a connection between women and nature. Eco-feminism believe that this connection is illustrated through the traditionally 'female' values of reciprocity nurturing and cooperation which are present both among women and in nature.

Eco-feminism is an interdisciplinary movement that calls for a new way of thinking about nature, politics and spirituality. Eco-feminist theory questions or rejects previously held patriarchal paradigms and holds that the domination of women by men is intimately linked to the destruction of environment.

In the context of India or any other developing/under developed countries, eco-feminism is vital to unveil the exploitations and invasions over our ecology and its resources by the developed countries in the name of globalization, urbanization and development. At the same way gender issues can be questioned sex/sexual minorities. Eco-feminism as an ideology and movement finds that the oppression of women is interlinked to the

oppression of nature with the same male centered attitudes and practices concerning to the patriarchal society. Eco-feminism has its roots in Literature also. The late 20th century has identified Eco-feminism as the movement that speaks for women, environment and all the marginalized groups, including queers. There are three major wings of eco feminism, which are of prime importance in defining the connection between woman and nature.

Cultural/spiritual Eco-feminism emphasizes on the natural connection between women and nature as exclusive and unique and supports the concept of 'Mother Earth' and 'femininity of nature'. They argue that traditional wisdoms of preserving and protecting nature as well as respecting women should be practiced in our contemporary society Vandana shiva describes in her book Staying Alive; women, ecology and survival in India that "forests" have always been central to Indian civilization. They have been worshiped as Aranyani, the Goddess of the forest, the primary source of life and fertility, and the forest as a community has viewed as a model for societal and civilization evolution. Mary Daly, who is a radical lesbian feminist, in her much critically acclaimed book Gyn/ecology analyzes the concept of feminity, its origin and roots.

Socialist eco-feminism stands somewhere in between cultural and constructivist eco-feminism. It neither accepts nor resects the natural connection between women and nature, by deemphasizing the connection.

III AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

The aim and main objectives of my present study is analysis and interpretation of the textual and conceptual essence of eco-feminism in the selected novels of Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur.

It shows how women and nature are related to each other and how both are oppressed by the patriarchal society, in the same way and how women and nature both are showing resistance towards this dominance in their own ways. All the female characters in these novels are related and affected by nature in one or other ways.

IV HYPOTHESIS

Following Hypotheses have been taken into consideration in view of the present research work.

i] Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur belt with the varied Eco-feminism and predicament of women with nature.

ii] There will be a through and detailed study of selected fiction of Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur with the emphases on the

reflection of Eco-feminism and stressing on women empowerment also.

iii] An attempt also will be made to find out the different problems and suffering faced by the women and nature (forest) reflected in the selected novels.

V DATA, SCOPE AND LIMITATION

For the present study a wide range of data is to be collected. Different reference and critical books on and about the writers Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur are to be collected along with the original texts of the selected novels. The research project is limited to the readings of the original text and the critical writing on and about the selected novelist as it is a study on literature.

For this research primary souses will be Anita Nair's Novels "Ladies coupe" and "The Better Man" and Kamala Markandaya's "Nectar in a sieve", "A silence of Desire" (1960) and A Handful of Rice (1960) and Manju kapurs "A married woman", "Difficult Daughters", and custody.

IV RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The present research work is aimed at to bring out the Eco-feminist approaches from the novels of Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur. The methodology is used as per the MLA stylebook. Besides this,

almost all directives and guidelines are to be followed as per norms and suggestions of good research. The research methodology used in this study shall be interpretative, explorative and analytical.

VII JUSTIFICATION OF RESEARCH

Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur are not only Finely interviewing various eco-feminist and feminist theories in their novels but also seeking possibilities and solutions for empowerment of women and environment. They clearly picture before us the irreparable aftermath that can germinate from the oppression of women and nature and spread to the future like terminal disease, which can put the whole development and technology that man has created till this date, into question.

They also says that we can contribute the well being and overall empowerment of the whole ecological system.

PEDAGOGICAL IMPLICATION

The present research will be much useful for forthcoming researchers, educationists, teachers, and students who are interested in the reading of the works of Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur. It also will be useful for the forthcoming scholars dealing with the fiction expressing the problems and predicament of women and nature simultaneously.

VIII TENTETIVE CHAPTER SCHEME

The present research work is divided into five chapters. It is aimed at 250 – 300 pages. The research projects deals with the Eco-feminism in the Novels (selected) of Anita Nair, Kamala Markandaya and Manju kapur. The tentative chapter scheme of the present research project will be as follows.

1] Introduction

2] Historical Background of the Indian English fiction in Nineties and the Eco-feminist elements therein.

3] Feminist perspective and Eco-feminism in Anita Nair's fiction.

4] Fiction of Kamala Markandaya feminist perspective and Eco-feminism

5] Eco-feminism and feminist perspectives expressed in Manju kapur

6] Conclusion

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Researcher
Mr. Nakhod S.K.
Asst. Prof. Dept. of English
Rajarshi Shahu Polytechnic Buldhana

Research Guide
Dr. Shinde Mahendra
Head of Dept. of English
Nutan College, Selu